



Natural Landscaping:

Four Garden Types

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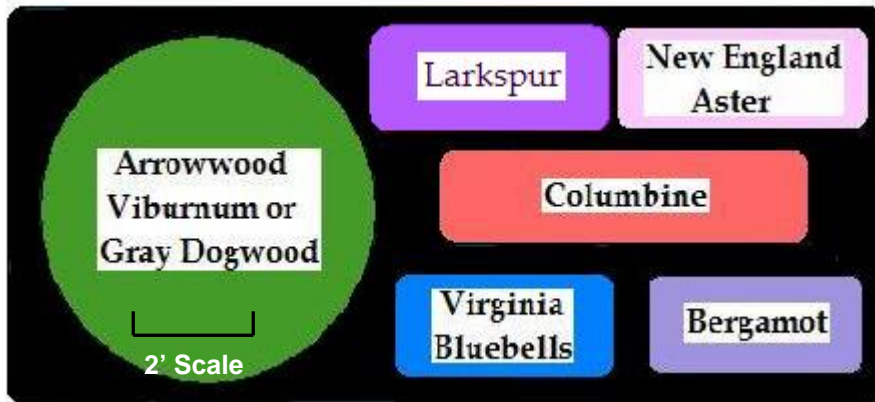
City of
Bloomington
Environmental
Commission

Prairie Garden

The illustration to the right exemplifies a prairie garden suitable for a Bloomington backyard. Notice that both native grasses and flowers are present. This garden is intended for a sunny to partially sunny site. Plants should be placed in clusters, with several individuals planted together.



Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Type	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Sun	Moisture	Soil	Wildlife Value	Bloom Time
Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	PG	8	3	F	A	WF	C	
Prairie Blazing Star	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	PF	4	1.5	FP	M	DF	BS	S
Butterflyweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	PF	3	2	FP	MD	WO	B	S
Indian Grass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	PG	6	2	F	MD	W	C	
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	PF	4	2	FP	MD	W	B	S
Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>	PL	3	1.5	F	MD	W	C	S
Side-Oats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	PG	2	1	F	MD	W	C	
Stiff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	PF	5	1	F	MD		BE	F
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	PG	5	3	F	A		C	

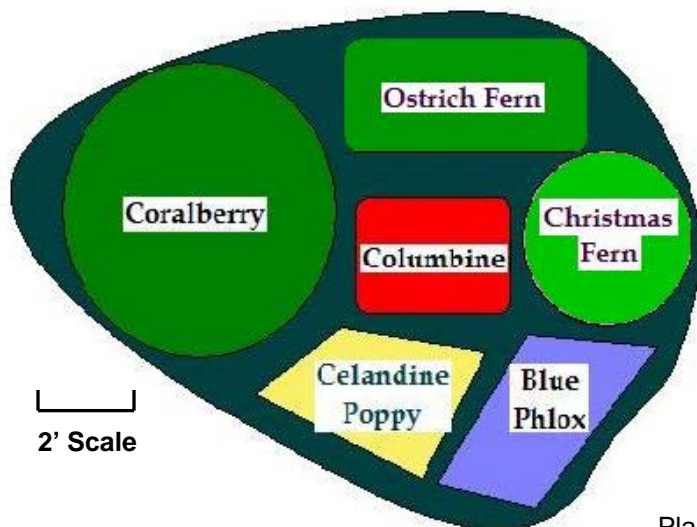


Shade Garden

The illustration to the left identifies native species suitable for growing in the shade, perhaps on the east or north side of a home. The shrub will provide cover for wildlife. Note that the tallest plants are at the back of the garden and the shortest in front.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Type	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Sun	Moisture	Soil	Wildlife Value	Bloom Time
Arrowwood Viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	SS	8	6-15	FP	WM	W	A	SP
Larkspur	<i>Delphinium tricornes</i>	PF	2	1.5	PS	M	D	F	SP
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	PF	3	1	PF	M	OWF	E	SP
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	SS	9	10-15	A	A	W	F	S
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	PF	4	3	A	A	WF	B	F
Virginia Bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	PF	2	1	PS	M	O	E	SP
Bergamot (Bee-balm)	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	PF	2	2	PF	MD	O	BM	S

SEE KEY FOR TABLES ON BACK



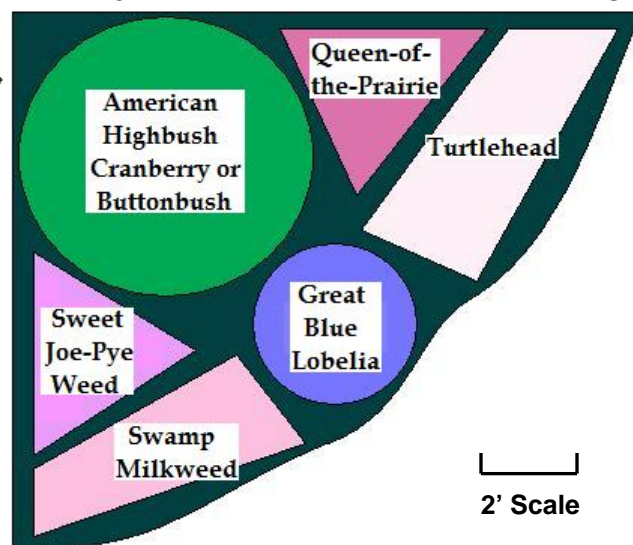
Woodland Garden

The example of a woodland garden to the left would be appropriate for backyards dominated by shade from existing large trees. These plants can survive under tree canopies. Notice the variety of bloom colors. Blooms will be present from spring through summer with this plant assemblage.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Type	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Sun	Moisture	Soil	Wildlife Value	Bloom Time
Blue Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	PF	2	1	PS	M	WD	BS	SP
Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	PFn	1.5	1.5	PS	MD	WDO	C	
Celandine Poppy	<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	PF	1.5	1.5	PS	M		R	SP-S
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	PF	3	1	PF	M	OWF	E	SP
Ostrich Fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	PFn	5	4	PS	MW	D	C	
Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	SS	4	6	A	MD	F	EL	S

Wet Site Garden

The model to the right shows a variety of native plants acceptable for moist to wet sites in a Bloomington backyard. These sites may be located in a low area of the yard or an area with poorly drained soils. Here the corner of a yard is depicted. Note the curved edge of the bed, which helps the garden appear more natural. Hummingbirds and butterflies will be attracted to this garden throughout the summer for nectar.



Common Name	Scientific Name	Plant Type	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Sun	Moisture	Soil	Wildlife Value	Bloom Time
American Highbush Cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	MS	15	8-12	FP	MD	WD	F	SP-S
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	MS	3-8	3-6	FP	W		AB	S
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	PF	3	1.5	FP	WM		BN	S
Queen-of-the-Prairie	<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	PF	5	2	FP	WD		B	S
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	PF	4	3	FP	WM		BEL	S
Sweet Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium purpureum</i>	PF	7	3	FP	WM		BN	S
Turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	PF	3	2	FP	WM		L	SF

KEY:

Plant Type: MS=Med. Shrub, PG=Perennial Grass, PL=Per. Legume, PF=Per. Forb, SS=Short Shrub, PFn= Per. Fern

Sun Requirement: A=All Types, F=Full, P=Partial Shade, S=Full Shade

Moisture Preference: A=All Types, D=Dry, M=Moist, W=Wet

Soil Preference: D=Deep/Rich, F=Fertile, O=High Organic Content, W=Well Drained

Wildlife Value: A=Food/Cover, B=Butterfly Nectar, C=Mainly Cover, E=Bee Nectar, F=Mainly Food, L=Butterfly Host, M=Moth Nectar, N=Hummingbird Nectar, R= Deer Resistant, S=Bird Seed (Finch/Junco)

Bloom Time: SP=Spring, S=Summer, F=Fall

References:

Harstad, C. 1999. *Go Native: Gardening with native plants and wildflowers in the lower Midwest*. IU Press, Bloomington.

Henderson, C.L. 1987. *Landscaping for Wildlife*. Minnesota DNR, USA

Grow Native! 2007. Missouri Department of Conservation and Department of Agriculture.